

**From:** Flowers Christian-P29364  
**To:** 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'  
**Date:** 1/24/02 5:02pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Microsoft continues to flout the law in forcing users to sign up for specific services. In particular, the reliance on Passport for transactions is disturbing. Notwithstanding technical security issues, in pushing and requiring Passport, a large user base can be quickly built. This can be easily used to exclude other personal identification schemes, and shut out applications, retailers, other operating systems, or anyone else Microsoft feels may be competition.

If Microsoft is allowed to continue, they will continue to not only tie in services but REQUIRE their use. The common user will take what is in front of them and convenient. Whether it's Passport, .NET, WMA format, Microsoft will do everything it can to force users to be dependent upon them. Once that dependency exists, it will be difficult if not impossible to remove it.

There are many other reasons, and many other better written responses, but I felt it necessary to add at least my 2 cents.

Sincerely,  
Christian Flowers...